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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Extensions of country programmes in the Arab States region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the six-month extension of the UNFPA country programme for Egypt, following a one-year extension of the programme in 2012.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for further extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the six-month country programme extension for Egypt, as indicated in table 1.

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Table 1. Country programme extensions to be approved by the Executive Board

Country	Original programme period	Period proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Egypt	2007-2011 2012 (first one-year extension)	Six months (through June 2013)	Due to the changes Egypt is undergoing and the transitional nature of the interim governments since January 2011, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP obtained, with the agreement of the Government, a one-year extension (through December 2012) of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, 2007-2011, and the related country programme documents. A new Government is not expected to be in place before July 2012. Therefore, the United Nations requested an additional one-year extension of the UNDAF and the country programme documents through December 2013. This request was based on political developments and the need for sufficient time for consultation, to ensure alignment of the UNDAF and the country programme documents with the priorities and strategies of the new Government. However, the Government of Egypt agreed to a six-month extension, through 30 June 2013, rather than a one-year extension. Accordingly, UNFPA is seeking an extension of its country programme for an additional six months, through June 2013.	Following the January 2011 revolution, Egypt has undergone a complex political and social transition. Key milestones in this process are the parliamentary elections, concluded in March 2012, and the presidential elections, scheduled for May and June 2012. The newly-elected President is expected to be sworn in by the end of June 2012, and a new Government will be nominated. The timetable and the mechanism for drafting a new constitution have not yet been determined.	The extension of the country programme will enable UNFPA to: (a) better identify and engage new development actors, including parliamentarians, young people, faith-based organizations, non-government organizations and civil society; and (b) improve the alignment of the next country programme to national priorities that may change as the socio-economic situation and the political situation unfold. To this end, the programme will: (a) provide a platform for debate on issues such as family planning, gender equality and female genital mutilation/cutting within the human rights agenda; (b) advocate sustaining gains in terms of reproductive health rights; and (c) design the next UNFPA country programme.